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What is claimed is:

5   1.   A numeric keypad comprising:

an arrangement of two or more numeric data entry keys, each of which includes a

multidirectional switch.

2.   The numeric keypad of Claim 1 wherein the multidirectional switch of each of the

10   numeric data entry keys includes a central switch and one or more lateral switches.

3.   The numeric keypad of Claim 2 wherein the one or more lateral switches include

an up switch, a down switch, a left switch, and a right switch.

15   4.   The numeric keypad of Claim 1 wherein each multidirectional switch comprises:

a fixed electrode; and

a contact switch electrode.

5.   The numeric keypad of Claim 1 wherein each multidirectional switch comprises:

20   pressure-sensitive semiconductor material.

6.   The numeric keypad of Claim 1 wherein each multidirectional switch comprises:

a pressure-sensitive resistive element.

25   7.   An array of two or more user input keys, wherein two or more symbols are

associated with each of the keys and further wherein disambiguation between the two or more

symbols associated with a pressed one of the keys is accomplished by detecting a manner in

which the pressed key is pressed.

8.   The array of Claim 7 wherein the manner in which the key is pressed as detected includes rocking of the key while in a pressed state.

9.   A method for disambiguating among two or more symbols associated with a key, the method comprising:

detecting a first type of actuation of the key;

detecting a second type of actuation of the key; and

selecting a selected one of the two or more symbols in accordance with the second type of actuation.

10.   The method of Claim 9 wherein the first type of actuation includes pressing the key.

11.   The method of Claim 10 wherein the second type of actuation includes rocking the key.

12.   The method of Claim 9 wherein the key is a virtual key realized in a touch-sensitive device; and

further wherein the first type of actuation includes touching the virtual key within the touch-sensitive device.

13.   The method of Claim 12 wherein the touch-sensitive device is a touch-sensitive screen.

14.   The method of Claim 12 wherein the second type of actuation is a sliding along the touch-sensitive device.